child health have led to population control in Kerala and Government intend to replicate these successful models in big State like Bihar, Madhya Prades, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;

(c) whether population policy is the only issue escaping revision; and

(d) if so, what concrete and early steps are being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) The National Population Policy, 2000 has already been adopted by the Government in February, 2000 and laid on the table of both the Houses of Parliament in March, 2000.

The adoption of National Population Policy 2000 mandates focused attention in particular to those States that continue to struggle with below average socio-demographic indices, with a view to accelerating performance in the States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa.

(d) An Empowered Action Group is being constituted to speed up implementation of Population Stablisation Programme in the weekly performing States/areas.

Foreign Tours of DDG (TB)

1460. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many times DDG (TB), had gone on foreign tours and the amount spent on each tour:

(b) whether the foreign tours undertaken by DDG(TB) were official visits or courtesy tours, offered by some multinational companies;

(c) whether any permission was taken from Government prior to undertaking the courtesy tours; and

(d) what action is being taken against DDG(TB), stating the names of companies offering courtesy tours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) With the approval of Ministry of Health during current calendar year two foreign tours were conducted by DDG(TB), one to Bangkok, Thailand and other to New York. No Expenditure was incurred by Government of India.

(b) They were official visits and none of them were courtesy tours offered by Multinational Company.

(c) They were only official visits undertaken with prior permission of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Identification of areas for Population Control

1461. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first meeting of the Strategic Support (Group) (SSG) was convened on 31st May, 2000 to deal with the population growth;

(b) if so, whether any thrust areas were identified in this regard; and

(c) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This meeting focussed on the strategies that need to be adopted and the programmes of various Departments that need to be coordinated for achieving the objective of the National Population Policy, 2000.